Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /089 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/CH - MR. STEVEN:LEE
APPROVED BY ARA/AND - MR. BARNEBEY
AF/S - MR. TAYLOR
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R 020301Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 287669

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, MILI, SF, WA, CI

SUBJ: ALLEGATIONS OF CHILEAN - SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY

REF: USUN 5138

1. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO A STORY CIRCULATED HERE AMONG HUMAN RIGHTS INTEREST GROUPS, CHILEAN EXILE GROUPS, AND A FEW JOURNALISTS CONCERNING THE SUPPOSED PRESENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND SPECIFICALLY IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA, OF "CHILEAN TROOPS". THESE TROOPS ALLEGEDLY WERE ASSISTING SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IN REPRESSIVE ACTIONS. IN RESPONSE TO SEVERAL CALLS FROM INTERESTED PARTIES ASKING US TO CONFIRM OR DENY THE STORY, WE TOOK INFORMAL SOUNDINGS AT THE DESK AND EMBASSY LEVEL. THE UNAMIMOUS CONCLUSION, WHICH WE CONVEYED TO INQUIRERS, WAS THAT THE STORY WAS ABSURD.
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2. REFTEL REPORTS THAT CHARGE HAD NOW BEEN RAISED DIRECT-LY OR INDIRECTLY BY MOZAMBIQUE, CUBA AND VIETNAM IN UN COMMITTEE 3.

3. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT "CHILEAN TROOPS" ARE IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND KNOW OF NO BASIS FOR SUCH A CHARGE.

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OBVIOUS EXPLANATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THIS STORY WOULD

HAVE BEEN OBSERVANCE OF UNIFORMED CHILEAN MILITARY ATTACHES, OR A VISITING DELEGATION OF CHILEAN MILITARY, BUT WE ARE AWARE OF NO SUCH PRESENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND CERTAINLY NOT IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

4. MOST LIKELY EXPLANATION IS THAT STORY IS PROPAGANDA FABRICATION BY ENEMIES OF CHILE AND/OR SOUTH AFRICA. IT WILL BE HELPFUL, HOWEVER, IF EMBASSY SANTIAGO AND EMBASSY PRETORIA WILL COMMENT UPON WHAT EVIDENCE MAY EXIST OF CHILEAN-SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS IN GENERAL, AND THE ALLEGATIONS OF CHILEAN TROOPS IN SOUTH AFRICA IN PARTICULAR. ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SOURCE OF THE ALLEGATION WILL BE HELPFUL. VANCE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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